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## *PRESS RELEASE*

### **Chairperson meets with the Sudan Troika delegation composed Of US, UK and Norway Special Envoys, Prior to his Visit to Khartoum, El Fasher, and Juba**

Addis Ababa, 5 June 2011: The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), Dr. Jean Ping, will undertake a working visit to Sudan from the 6th to the 7th of June 2011, to meet with the Government of Sudan and the Government of South Sudan officials, in Khartoum and Juba, respectively.

The aim of this visit is to encourage the Parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) to spare no effort in order to overcome the current difficulties in Abyei through dialogue and successfully conclude the negotiations on the outstanding aspects of the CPA and the post-referendum arrangements.

The Chairperson will also travel to El Fasher, North Darfur, to meet with the senior leadership of African Union –United Nations Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) and attend the opening ceremony of the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISA) in Khartoum, on 6 June 2011.

Prior to this trip, the Chairperson has met on Saturday, 05 June 2011, in his office at the AUC Headquarters in Addis Ababa, with the Sudan Troika delegation composed of Special Envoys Princeton Lyman (United States), Michael Ryder (United Kingdom) and Tom Vraalsen (Norway).

This meeting offered a good opportunity for an exchange of views between Dr Ping and his interlocutors on the latest developments in Sudan with particular emphasis on the situation in Abyei.

The Chairperson pointed out that he will discuss with the leadership in Khartoum and Juba ways to de-escalate tension in Abyei Area.

Dr Ping further expressed his appreciation and full support for the crucial role being played by the AU High-Level Implementation Panel for Sudan (AUHIP).

The meeting between the Chairperson and the Sudan Troika delegation also reviewed the situation in Darfur and emphasised the importance of reaching an inclusive and comprehensive solution, based on a positive outcome of Doha peace talks and the commencement of the Darfur Political Process (DPP) to be held in Darfur in the coming weeks. The Chairperson informed the visiting delegation that he will receive a briefing, on 9 June 2011, from the Darfur peace mediators on the outcome of the All Darfur

Stakeholders conference which recently adopted, in Doha, a framework document for peace in Darfur..

Present at the meeting on the Troika side, among others, the US, UK and the Norwegian Ambassadors to AU, as well as the EU Special Representative for Sudan, while Dr Jean Ping was accompanied by the Chief of Staff in the Bureau of the Chairperson, his Deputy, and the Diplomatic Advisor to the Chairperson.

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